

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for echo reduction, comprising:
 - detecting a start of a transmission of communication signals; and
 - attenuating communication signals at the start of transmission to reduce amplitudes of echo signals prior to echo cancellation.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - setting a time period; and
 - continuing attenuating the communication signals from the start of the communication to when the time period expires.
3. The method of claim 3, wherein the time period is a predetermined time period.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold; and
 - continuing attenuating the communication signals from the start of the communication to substantially when the signals from the echo cancellers are received.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving one or more echo canceller signals from one or more echo cancellers; and
 - adjusting an attenuation value based on the echo canceller signals to attenuate the communication signals.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - providing for one or more attenuation values; and
 - attenuating the communication signals based on the attenuation values.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
 - setting the attenuation values based on an estimated effectiveness of the echo cancellers from the start of the communication.
8. A method for echo reduction, comprising:
 - detecting a start of a communication; and
 - attenuating communication signals of the communication to reduce amplitudes of echo signals during a predetermined time period prior to echo cancellation.
9. A method for echo reduction, comprising:

detecting a start of a communication;
receiving one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold; and
attenuating communication signals of the communication to reduce amplitudes of echo signals based on the signals received from the echo cancellers prior to echo cancellation.

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